In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1, 2, 11, 12 without prejudice or estoppel or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Amend claims 3-6, 8-10, and 13-17, and add new claims 18-21, as follows:

1.-2. (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The electronic document classification system of claim ~~1~~ 18, wherein the criteria table is provided corresponding to the kind of electronic document.

4.   (Currently Amended) The electronic document classification system of claim ~~1 wherein,~~ 18 in which the network is the Internet; and

wherein the controller is further configured to provide an input form page in which a user inputs the contents of the electronic document; and

wherein the electronic document is transferred to the electronic document classification system by clicking a button provided on the input form page.

5.   (Currently Amended) The electronic document classification system of claim ~~1~~ 18, wherein the transferred electronic documents are ~~temporally~~

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<u>temporarily</u> stored in an external server provided outside the classification system; and

wherein, when a predetermined amount of the electronic documents are stored in the external server or when a predetermined time has elapsed, the electronic documents stored in the external server are transferred to the classification system.

6.   (Currently Amended) The electronic document classification system of claim ~~1~~ 18, wherein the controller is further configured, in response to a request for printing the electronic document, to lay out the contents of the electronic document on paper in accordance with the size of the paper.

7.   (Original) The electronic document classification system of claim 5, wherein the controller is further configured, in response to a request for printing the electronic document, to place an attached file on a predetermined position of the paper if the attached file is included in the electronic document.

8.   (Currently Amended) The electronic document classification system of claim ~~1~~ 18, wherein the controller is further configured to determine whether the electronic document is acceptable based on the assigned priority; and

wherein the controller is further configured to generate an electronic mail for a rejection notice if it is determined that the electronic document is not acceptable, and to generate an electronic mail for an acceptance notice if it is determined that the electronic document is acceptable.

9.   (Currently Amended) The electronic document classification system of claim ~~1~~ 18, further comprising:

a determination result storage for storing the value of the assigned priority for each of the electronic documents;

wherein the controller is further configured to provide a page in which a user can modify the value of the assigned priority; and

wherein the controller is further configured to update the value of the assigned priority stored in the determination result storage in response to an instruction for modification provided by the user on the page.

10.   (Currently Amended) The electronic document classification system of claim ~~1~~ 18, further comprising a history data storage for storing the progress relating to the electronic document; and

wherein the controller is further configured to provide a page in which a user can check on the progress of handling the electronic documents.

11.-12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Currently Amended) The method for classifying electronic documents of claim ~~11~~ 20, wherein the criteria table is provided corresponding to the kind of electronic document.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method for classifying electronic documents of claim ~~11, wherein~~ 20 in which the network is the Internet; and

wherein the ~~step (d) further comprising~~ method further comprises the steps of:

providing an input form page in which a user inputs the contents of the electronic document; and

activating a transfer of the electronic document in response to a click of a button provided on the input form page.

~~16.~~ 15.   (Currently Amended) The method for classifying electronic documents of claim ~~11~~ 20, further comprising activating an internal process in response to a request provided by a user, the internal process including

at least one of inquiry, approval, modification, e-mail generation and printing processes.

17. 16.　　　　　　(Currently Amended) The method for classifying electronic documents of claim 16 15, wherein the internal process includes a printing process; and

wherein, in response to a request for printing the electronic document, laying out the contents of the electronic document on paper in accordance with the size of the paper.

18. 17.　　　　　　(Currently Amended) The method for classifying electronic documents of claim 16 15, wherein the internal process is performed via interaction between a user and a personal computer.

18.　　(New)An electronic document classification system provided on a computer of a requesting side that requests a plurality of business partners to submit a cost estimation;

means for receiving the cost estimation as an electronic document from a computer of each of the plurality of business partners via a network;

a criteria table for storing a target value for each of the items included in the electronic document and a score that is predetermined in accordance with a value of each of the items;

a partner table for storing a score that is evaluated for attributes of each of the plurality of business partners;

a score counter provided corresponding to the received electronic document;

a controller configured, for each of the items included in the electronic document, to:

compare the value of the item with the target value to reject documents including an item that does not meet the target value;

for each of the documents that are not rejected, extract from the criteria table a score corresponding to the value of the item to add the extracted score to the score counter; and

for each of the documents that are not rejected, extract from the partner table a score evaluated for attributes of a partner from which the document is received, to add the extracted score to the score counter,

wherein the controller is further configured to assign, in accordance with a value of the score counter, a priority to each of the documents that are not rejected.

19. (New)The electronic document classification system of claim 18, wherein the criteria table further stores a target score that is to be satisfied by the electronic documents;

wherein the system further comprises means for setting a recommendation flag in electronic documents having the score counter that has a value greater than the target score, and means for extracting the electronic documents in which the recommendation flag is set.

20. (New)A method for classifying electronic documents, the method performed by a computer of a requesting side that requests a plurality of business partners to submit a cost estimation, the computer comprising means for receiving the cost estimation as electronic document from a computer of each of the plurality of business partners via a network, a criteria table for storing a target value for each of the items included in the electronic document and a score that is predetermined in accordance with a value of each of the items, a partner table for storing a score that is evaluated for attributes of each of the plurality of business partners, and a score counter provided corresponding to the received electronic document, the method comprising, for each of the items included in the electronic document, the steps of:

(a) comparing the value of the item with the target value to reject documents including an item that does not meet the target value;

(b) for each of documents that are not rejected, extracting from the criteria table a score corresponding to the value of the item to add the extracted score to the score counter; and

(c) for each of the documents that are not rejected, extracting from the partner table a score evaluated for attributes of a partner from which the documents is received, to add the extracted score to the score counter,

wherein the method further comprises the step of assigning, in accordance with a value of the score counter, a priority to each of the documents that are not rejected.

21. (New)The method for classifying electronic documents of claim 20, wherein the criteria table further stores a target score that is to be satisfied by the electronic documents;

wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

setting a recommendation flag in electronic documents having the score counter that has a value greater than the target score, and

extracting the electronic documents in which the recommendation flag is set.